

Senate Bill No. 680

CHAPTER 795

An act relating to student financial aid.

[Approved by Governor October 10, 2003. Filed
with Secretary of State October 11, 2003.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 680, McPherson. Student financial aid: Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program: high school grade point average: nontraditional, returning, and older adult students.

Existing law, known as the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act, establishes the Cal Grant A and B entitlement awards, the California Community College Transfer Entitlement awards, the Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards, the Cal Grant C awards, and the Cal Grant T awards under the administration of the Student Aid Commission, and establishes eligibility requirements for awards under these programs for participating students attending qualifying institutions.

An existing provision of the act defines "high school grade point average" as a grade point average calculated on a 4.0 scale, using all academic coursework, except that during the sophomore year, the summer following the sophomore year, the junior year, and the summer following the junior year, the grades for physical education, reserve officer training corps, and remedial courses are excluded from that calculation.

Existing provisions of the act require applicants for competitive Cal Grant A awards or competitive Cal Grant B awards to comply with various requirements, among which is the attainment of a minimum high school grade point average.

This bill would require the Student Aid Commission to convene an existing advisory committee to review the existing formula for calculating high school grade point averages under the act. The bill would require the commission to report the findings and recommendations of this committee to the Legislature as part of a report that is currently required to be submitted to the Legislature, prior to December 31, 2004. The bill would also require the commission to review the issue of whether the act provides adequate resources for nontraditional, returning, and older adult students, and to report its

findings and recommendations to the Legislature as part of the same report required above, prior to December 31, 2004.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) The Student Aid Commission shall convene an existing advisory committee to review the existing formula for calculating high school grade point averages under the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act. The commission shall report the findings and recommendations of the committee to the Legislature, as part of the report required pursuant to Section 69437.7 of the Education Code, prior to December 31, 2004. Members of the committee shall include, at a minimum, representatives of the high school community, as well as representatives of the California Community Colleges, the California State University, the University of California, the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, the California Postsecondary Education Commission, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

(b) The Student Aid Commission shall review the issue of whether the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act provides adequate resources for nontraditional, returning, and older adult students. The commission shall report its findings and recommendations on this issue to the Legislature, as part of the report required pursuant to Section 69437.7 of the Education Code, prior to December 31, 2004.

